DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 469 846 EC 309 238

AUTHOR	Wright, Peter W. D.; Wright, Pamela Darr
TITLE	Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy--The Special Education Survival Guide.
ISBN	ISBN-1-892320-08-8
PUB DATE	2002-00-00
NOTE	382p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Harbor House Law Press, Inc., P.O. Box 480, Hartfield, VA 23071 ($29.95). Tel: 877-529-4332 (Toll Free); Fax: 800-863-5348 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.harborhouselaw.com.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Child Advocacy; Compliance (Legal); *Disabilities; Educational Legislation; Elementary Secondary Education; Federal Legislation; Individualized Education Programs; *Parent Role; *Special Education; Student Rights
IDENTIFIERS	Americans with Disabilities Act 1990; *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Rehabilitation Act 1973 (Section 504)

ABSTRACT

This book for parents of children with disabilities is a guide to parent advocacy and the special education system. The five sections focus on: (1) getting started in advocacy; (2) "Advocacy 101"; (3) the parent as expert; (4) special education law; and (5) tactics and strategies. Individual chapters address the following topics: learning about advocacy; creating your master plan; the parent as project manager; obstacles to success; resolving parent-school conflict; crisis management; evaluations and your child's disability; records management; tests and measurements; smart Individualized Education Programs (IEPs); the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)--legislative intent; findings and purposes of IDEA; definitions in IDEA; least restrictive environment; Child Find, private placement, assessments; evaluations eligibility, IEPs, and placement; procedural safeguards, due process, discipline; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; the rules of adverse assumption; creating paper trails; how to write good evidence letters; writing the "letter to a stranger"; preparing for meetings and taking control; meeting strategies and maintaining control. Appendices include special education regulations concerning IEPs, frequently asked questions, parent rights and responsibilities, sources of information, and sample lessons and worksheets. (Contains 20 references.) (DB)

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